

4. (amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the concentration of the catalyst used in the fixed bed is in the range of 0.1 wt% to 1 wt% of activated charcoal.

5. (amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the halogenated metal phthalocyanine used is prepared as described and claimed in our co-pending application no. NF 260/98.

6. (amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the petroleum fraction used is selected from diesel, kerosene and FCC gasoline.

7. (amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the temperature is preferably in the range of 20°C to 50°C.

8. (amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pressure is preferably in the range of 5 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> - 8 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>.

9. (amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the liquid hourly space velocity (LHSV) is preferably in the range of 1 hr<sup>-1</sup> to 6 hr<sup>-1</sup>.

Please add the following claims:

10. (new) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein halogenated metal phthalocyanine catalyst used is selected from dichloro cobalt phthalocyanine and

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dibromo cobalt phthalocyanine.

11. (new) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the concentration of the catalyst used in the fixed bed is in the range of 0.1 wt% to 1 wt% of activated charcoal.

12. (new) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the concentration of the catalyst used in the fixed bed is in the range of 0.1 wt% to 1 wt% of activated charcoal.

*DLB*  
13. (new) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the halogenated metal phthalocyanine used is prepared as described and claimed in our co-pending application no. NF 260/98.

14. (new) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the halogenated metal phthalocyanine used is prepared as described and claimed in our co-pending application no. NF 260/98.

15. (new) A process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the halogenated metal phthalocyanine used is prepared as described and claimed in our co-pending application no. NF 260/98.

16. (new) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the petroleum fraction used is

selected from diesel, kerosene and FCC gasoline.

17. (new) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the petroleum fraction used is selected from diesel, kerosene and FCC gasoline.

18. (new) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the petroleum fraction used is selected from diesel, kerosene and FCC gasoline.

19. (new) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the petroleum fraction used is selected from diesel, kerosene and FCC gasoline.

20. (new) A process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the petroleum fraction used is selected from diesel, kerosene and FCC gasoline.

#### REMARKS

The above amendatory action is taken solely for the purpose of avoiding claim fees that would otherwise accrue due to the presence of multiple dependent claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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